

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10  
/127 W

-----088566 270253Z /75

R 262331Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4633  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS USUN 2378

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PORG, UN SF, AO  
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN LETTER TO SYG WALDHEIM

REF: USUN 2326

1. UN SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED, AS UN SECURITY COUNCIL  
DOCUMENT S/12370, JULY 22, 1977, TEXT OF LETTER DATED  
JULY 22 FROM SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
R. F. BOTHA TO SYG WALDHEIM. THIS LETTER IS RESPONSE TO  
LETTER SENT BY ANGOLAN FONMIN JORGE TO WALDHEIM ON JULY 19  
(REFTEL). BOTHA'S LETTER IS NOTABLE IN THAT IT CONTAINS  
INVITATION TO SYG TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO NAMIBIA TO  
INVESTIGATE ANGOLAN ALLEGATIONS OF SAG AGGRESSION ALONG  
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ANGOLA-NAMIBIA BORDER.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE  
LETTER DATED 22JULY 1977 FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO A COMMUNICATION MADE TO

YOU BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA ON 19 JULY (S/12368) IN CONNEXION WITH EVENTS ON 12 JULY, ALLEGING THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAD SHOT DOWN AN AIRCRAFT AT THE VILLAGE OF CUANGAR WHILE IT WAS LANDING AND ATTACKED CALUEQUE DAM WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY AND CATEGORICALLY DENY THESE ALLEGATIONS.

THE FACTS RELATING TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS. ON 12 JULY 1977, AT 12H00 SOUTH AFRICAN PERSONNEL AT KAURING KURU OBSERVED A PLANE-IN THEIR OPINION AN AN24-LANDING AT CUANGAR. AT APPROXIMATELY 13H00, THE SAME PERSONNEL OBSERVED A PLANE TAKING OFF IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION. VERY SHORTLY THEREAFTER AT ABOUT 30 METRES ALTITUDE, THE PLANE TURNED SHARPLY IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION. AT THIS POINT THEY SAY SOMETHING RESEMBLING AIR BURSTS AROUND THE AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF BUSHY AND UNEVEN TERRAIN, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THE PLANE WAS STILL VERY NEAR TO THE GROUND, IT DISAPPEARED OUT OF SIGHT. SUBSEQUENTLY SMOKE WAS NOTICED IN THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE PLANE HAD DISAPPEARED.

THE MATTER HAS BEEN INTENSIVELY INVESTIGATED, AND WE EMPHATICALLY GIVE THE ASSURANCE THAT THIS AIRCRAFT WAS NOT FIRED AT BY SOUTH AFRICAN PERSONNEL.  
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SUBSEQUENTLY, ON 20 JULY, HEAVY FIRING LASTING FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF AND IN CUANGAR. IN THE WAKE OF THIS, SOME HUNDREDS OF ANGOLANS FLED ACROSS THE BORDER AT CUANGAR INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED ATTACK ON CALUEQUE DAM, THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT. A REPORT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN RECEIVED ABOUT FIRING ACROSS THE BORDER IN THE VICINITY WHERE THE POWER LINE ON THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA SIDE WAS SABOTAGED BY SWAPO ON 10 JULY. A SOUTH AFRICAN PATROL WAS ATTACKED ON 13 JULY, PRESUMABLE BY SWAPO ENTERING FROM THE ANGOLA SIDE OF THE BORDER, USING SMALL ARMS AND MORTARS. A SKIRMISH STARTED ON THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER, BUT, BEING DEFEATED THE SWAPO PATROL, RETIRED INTO ANGOLA AND OCCUPIED A FIRE BASE APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES INSIDE ANGOLA, FROM WHERE THEY CONTINUED FIRING AND TRIED TO PIN DOWN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PATROL. THE SOUTH AFRICAN PATROL THEN HAD TO CONTINUE THE SKIRMISH UNTIL THE SWAPO PARTY FINALLY FLED.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT INVITES YOU TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO INVESTIGATE THESE TWO INCIDENTS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES WOULD WELCOME SUCH AN INVESTIGATION AND UNDERTAKE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND CAN GIVE ADVANCE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL ENABLE HIM TO PROCEED ANYWHERE IN THE AREA AND TO ASSIST HIM IN HIS INVESTIGATIONS.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO INTERROGATE THE LATEST WAVE OF REFUGEES FROM CUANGAR, WHO WILL, NO DOUBT, BE ABLE TO THROW LIGHT ON THE ALLEGED EVENTS INVOLVING THE AIRCRAFT. (SIGNED) R. F. BOTHA

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH AFRICAN LETTER TO SYG WALDHEIM  
**TAGS:** PORG, SF, AO, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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